CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method for print-to-mail notification, comprising the steps of:

2   determining that a print-to-mail format document has been printed;

3   identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and

4   generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-mail format

5 document has been printed.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining that a print-to-

2 mail format document has been printed comprises detecting printing of the print-to-

3 mail document.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining that a print-to-

2 mail format document has been printed comprises receiving a notice that a print-to-

3 mail format document has been printed.

1   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying document

2 attributes comprises identifying at least one of a name of the document, a date the

3 document was printed, and a name of a user.

1   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of identifying document

2 attributes comprises identifying at least one of a customer name, a customer number, a

3 billing period to which the document pertains.

1   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating notification

2   information comprises generating notification information that identifies at least one

3   of the document attributes.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting notification

2   information to a computing device.

1   8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting notification

2   information comprises transmitting notification information to a remote computing

3   device via a network.

1   9.   The method of claim 7, wherein the step of transmitting notification

2   information comprises transmitting the information to a database from which data

3   contained within the print-to-mail format document originated.

1   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the database is supported by a

2   network-based database management system.

1   11.   The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the notification

2   information within memory of a print-to-mail device that printed the print-to-mail

3   format document.

1   12.   A system for print-to-mail notification, comprising:

2   means for determining that a print-to-mail format document has been printed;

3   means for identifying attributes of the print-to-mail format document; and

4   means for generating notification information that identifies that the print-to-

5   mail format document has been printed.

1   13.   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for identifying document

2   attributes comprise means for identifying at least one of a name of the document, a

3   date the document was printed, and a name of a user.

1   14.   The system of claim 12, wherein the means for identifying document

2   attributes comprise means for identifying at least one of a customer name, a customer

3   number, a billing period to which the document pertains.

1   15.   The system of claim 12, further comprising means for transmitting

2   notification information to a computing device.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for transmitting

2   notification information comprise means for transmitting notification information to a

3   remote computing device via a network.

1   17.   The system of claim 12, further comprising means for storing the

2   notification information within memory of a print-to-mail device that printed the

3   print-to-mail format document.

1   18.   A print-to-mail device, comprising:

2   a processing device;

3   hard copy generation hardware; and

4   memory including a print-to-mail notifier configured to generate notification

5   information pertinent to printing of a print-to-mail format document.

1   19.   The device of claim 18, wherein the hard copy generation hardware

2   comprises a print engine.

1   20.   The device of claim 18, wherein the hard copy generation hardware

2   comprises a folding mechanism and a sealing mechanism.

1   21.   The device of claim 18, wherein the notifier is configured to identify at

2   least one attribute of the print-to-mail format document.

1   22.   The device of claim 18, wherein the memory further comprises a

2   database adapted to store the notification information.

1   23.   The device of claim 18, further comprising a network interface device

2   adapted to transmit notification information to a computing device via a network.

1   24.   The device of claim 18, further comprising an embedded web server

2   that supports a print-to-mail service that is accessible over a network.

1   25.   The device of claim 24, wherein the service comprises a print-to-mail

2   web service that is accessible over the Internet.